

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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INR/REA - MR. BEDLINGTON (SUBS)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 305536

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MY, US

SUBJECT: REPORTED MFA ATTITUDES TOWARDS USG

REFS: A. SINGAPORE 5613 B. KUALA LUMPUR 7105

1. WE HAVE NOTICED, IN GREATLY VARYING CONTEXTS OF
REFTELS, REFERENCES TO "FOOT-DRAGGING" AND A "HARD LINE
ATTITUDE" IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF GOM-US RELATIONS ON PART
OF MALAYSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. WE ARE CURIOUS IN THIS REGARD WHETHER ANYTHING MORE
MAY BE INVOLVED THAN A DESIRE TO PRESERVE THE GOM'S CUS-
TOMARY ARMS' LENGTH POSTURE OF DEALING WITH GREAT POWERS.
OTHER EXPLANATIONS THAT OCCUR TO US DO NOT RESOLVE THE
MATTER. RAJARATNAM'S VIEW (REF A) THAT FALLOUT FROM THE
PETRONAS-EXXON NEGOTIATIONS WAS THE CAUSE OF THE MFA'S
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ATTITUDE DOES NOT STRIKE US AS A WHOLLY SATISFACTORY
ANSWER. IN THE CASE OF BUREC'S PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES,
WE MIGHT HAVE EXPECTED THE MFA TO HAVE TAKEN A DIFFERENT
LINE, BASED PERHAPS ON THE NECESSITY OF THE GOM FULFILLING
SUCH AGREEMENTS.

3. EMBASSY'S VIEWS OF MFA'S POSTURE AND THE REASONS FOR

IT WOULD BE OF INTEREST. IN THIS CONNECTION, WHAT DO
YOU MAKE OF RAJARATNAM'S POINT (REFTEL) REGARDING THE
"ANTI-AMERICAN, ANTI-WEST" SENTIMENTS OF SOME MFA
PERSONNEL?

ROBINSON

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